REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9 and 11-15 remain in the application. Claims 2, 4, 8 and 10 have been canceled.

First, applicant has claimed priority under 35 USC 119(e) based on the previously filed provisional application by amending the specification to specifically reference the earlier filed application.

The drawings stand objected to because Figures 1 and 2 were not labeled as "Prior Art"; there was a duplicate reference number 60; and the reference sign "43" as mentioned in the specification was not shown. Each of these informalities has been corrected and new proposed drawings with the correction are submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

Claims 2-6 and 8-15 stand objected to because of dependent informalities. Each of the claims has been amended or canceled to correct the informality.

Claims 5, 6 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner points out in claims 5 and 11 that it is not clear whether the term "an end" references the tubular body portion's first or second ends. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the lip (84) extends from the first end wall (76) to a distal end (85), see Figure 5.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by applicant's prior art Figure 2. Further, claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent no. 5,333,915 to Sparling et al. Claims 4 and 10 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, claims 5, 6 and 11 -15 are also indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 set forth above and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

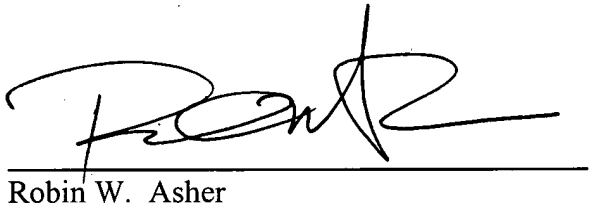
Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 2 and allowable claim 4. Although dependent claim 3 is an intervening claim, it has not been included in amended claim 1 because the limitation of the locking grooves including a ramped section is indicated by the Examiner as being shown by Sparling et al. and not a required or necessary limitation in light of allowable claim 4 needed to distinguish Applicant's invention over the prior art. Likewise, Applicant has amended independent claim 7 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 8 and allowable claim 10. Again, dependent claim 9 is an intervening claim which has not been included in amended claim 7 for the same reason as above.

Finally, the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter states that "the prior art of record does not disclose a hydrant nozzle wherein each of the locking grooves are defined by upstanding, parallel and curved inner and outer walls directed upwardly from the bottom surface to the front face, and they extend between the first and second end walls." The statement also does not suggest the need for the ramped section of dependent claims 3 and 9. Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 7 include the limitations indicated as allowable and should be in condition for immediate allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment for the purpose of clarifying the invention.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for more favorable consideration and immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 5, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 19362.085599

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 3, before the section "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", the following paragraph has been added:

RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit under 35 USC Section 119(e) of United States provisional application 60/153,177, filed on September 10, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle for connecting a fire hose to a fire hydrant, said hydrant nozzle comprising:

a tubular body portion extending longitudinally between a first end and a second end, said body portion having a generally cylindrical outer surface and a generally cylindrical inner surface defining a fluid passageway between said first and second ends;

a cylindrical neck portion extending from said second end of the body portion to a front face and having an outer peripheral rim and an inner rim defining a center opening in fluid communication with said fluid passageway of said body portion;

a pair of spaced apart locking lugs projecting outwardly from said outer surface and positioned between said first and second ends of said body portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant; and

a pair of spaced apart arcuate shaped locking grooves recessed in said front face of said neck portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hose, said locking grooves defined by a bottom surface recessed from said front face of said neck portion and extending between spaced apart first and second end walls defining said grooves and upstanding, parallel

and curved inner and outer walls projecting upwardly from said bottom surface to said front face and extending between said first and second end walls.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim [2] 1, wherein each of said locking grooves are further defined by a ramped section adjacent said second end wall and inclining from said bottom surface towards said front face for releasing the fire hose from engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Claim 4 has been canceled.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim [4] 3, wherein each of said locking grooves [as] are further defined by including a lip projecting radially inwardly from a portion of said outer wall toward said inner wall and extending from said first end wall to [an] a distal end and forming a top surface of said groove spaced from and parallel to said bottom surface and defining an L-shaped cross-section.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 5, wherein said top surface of said lip includes an inclined section extending from said end toward said first end wall for receiving and guiding the fire hose into engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle for connecting a fire hose to a fire hydrant, said hydrant nozzle comprising:

a tubular body portion extending along a longitudinal axis between a first end and a second end, said body portion having a generally cylindrical outer surface and a generally cylindrical inner surface defining a fluid passageway between said first and second ends, said body portion adapted to be received and removably secured to the fire hydrant;

a cylindrical neck portion extending radially from said body portion between said second end to a front face and having an outer peripheral rim and an inner rim defining a center opening in fluid communication with said fluid passageway of said body portion; and

a pair of spaced apart arcuate shaped locking grooves recessed in said front face of said neck portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hose, said locking grooves defined by a bottom surface recessed from said front face of said neck portion and extending between spaced apart first and second end walls defining said grooves and upstanding, parallel and curved inner and outer walls projecting upwardly from said bottom surface to said front face and extending between said first and second end walls.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim [8] 7, wherein each of said locking grooves are further defined by a ramped section adjacent said second end wall and inclining from said bottom surface towards said front face for releasing the fire hose from engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim [10] 9, wherein each of said locking grooves [as] are further defined by including a lip projecting radially inwardly from a portion of said outer wall toward said inner wall and extending from said first end wall to [an] a

distal end and forming a top surface of said groove spaced from and parallel to said bottom surface and defining an L-shaped cross-section.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 11, wherein said top surface of said lip includes an inclined section extending from said end toward said first end wall for receiving and guiding the fire hose into engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 12, further including a plurality of threads disposed on said outer surface of said body portion between said first and second ends for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

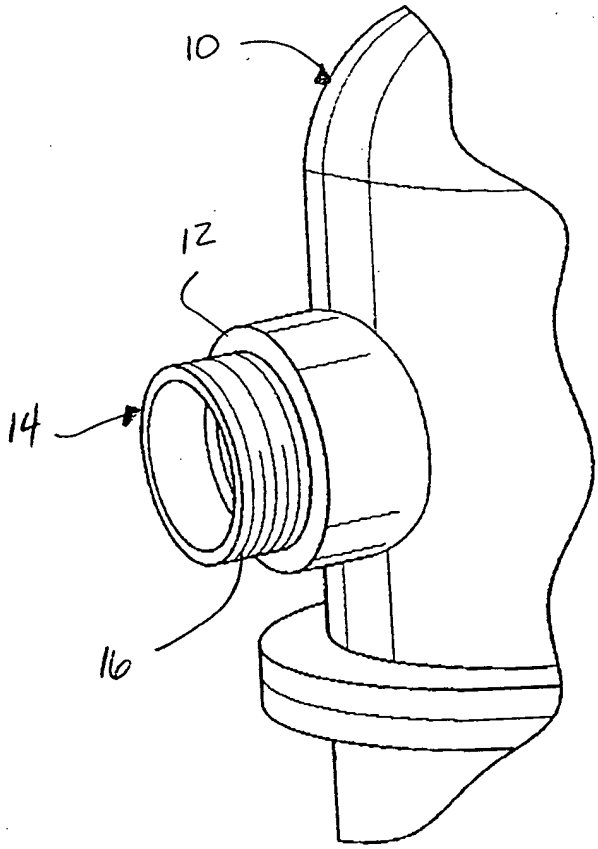
14. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 12, further including a pair of spaced apart locking lugs projecting outwardly from said outer surface of said body portion and positioned between said first and second ends for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Amended) A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 14, wherein said locking lugs extend along an arcuate path generally transverse to said longitudinal axis of said body portion.

PRIOR ART

Fig-1



PRIOR ART

Fig-2

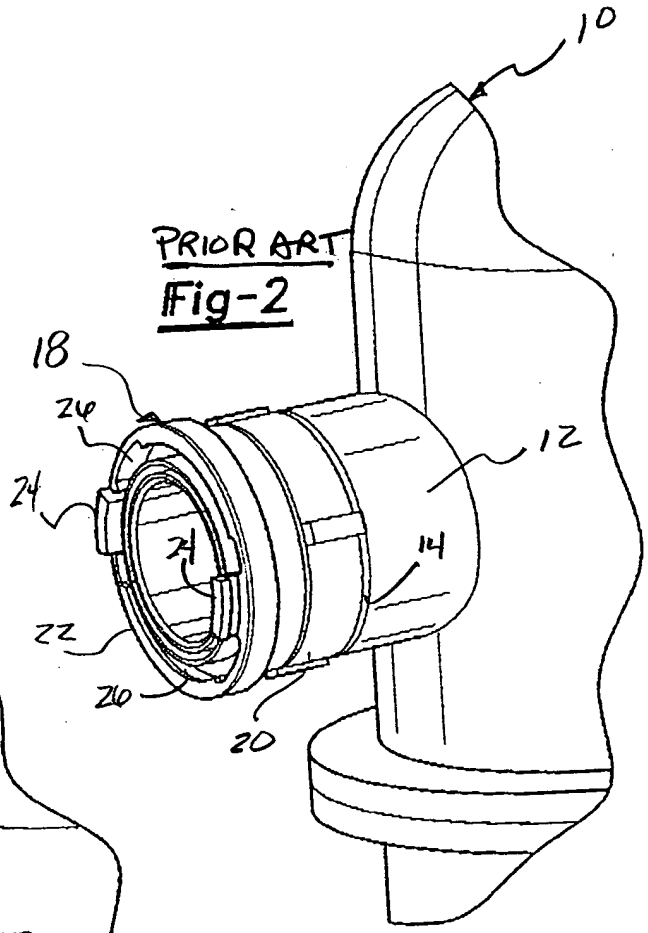
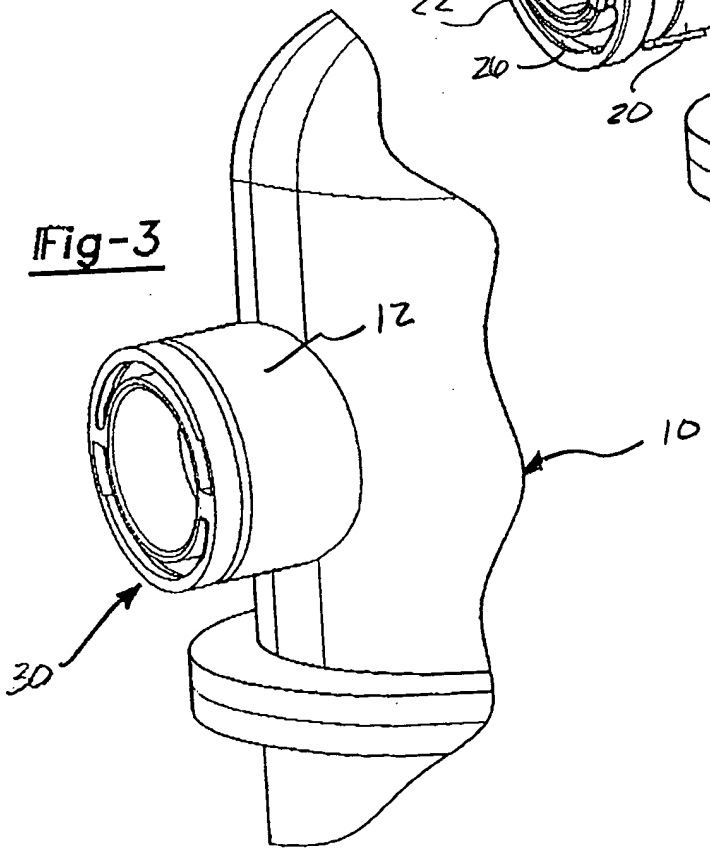


Fig-3



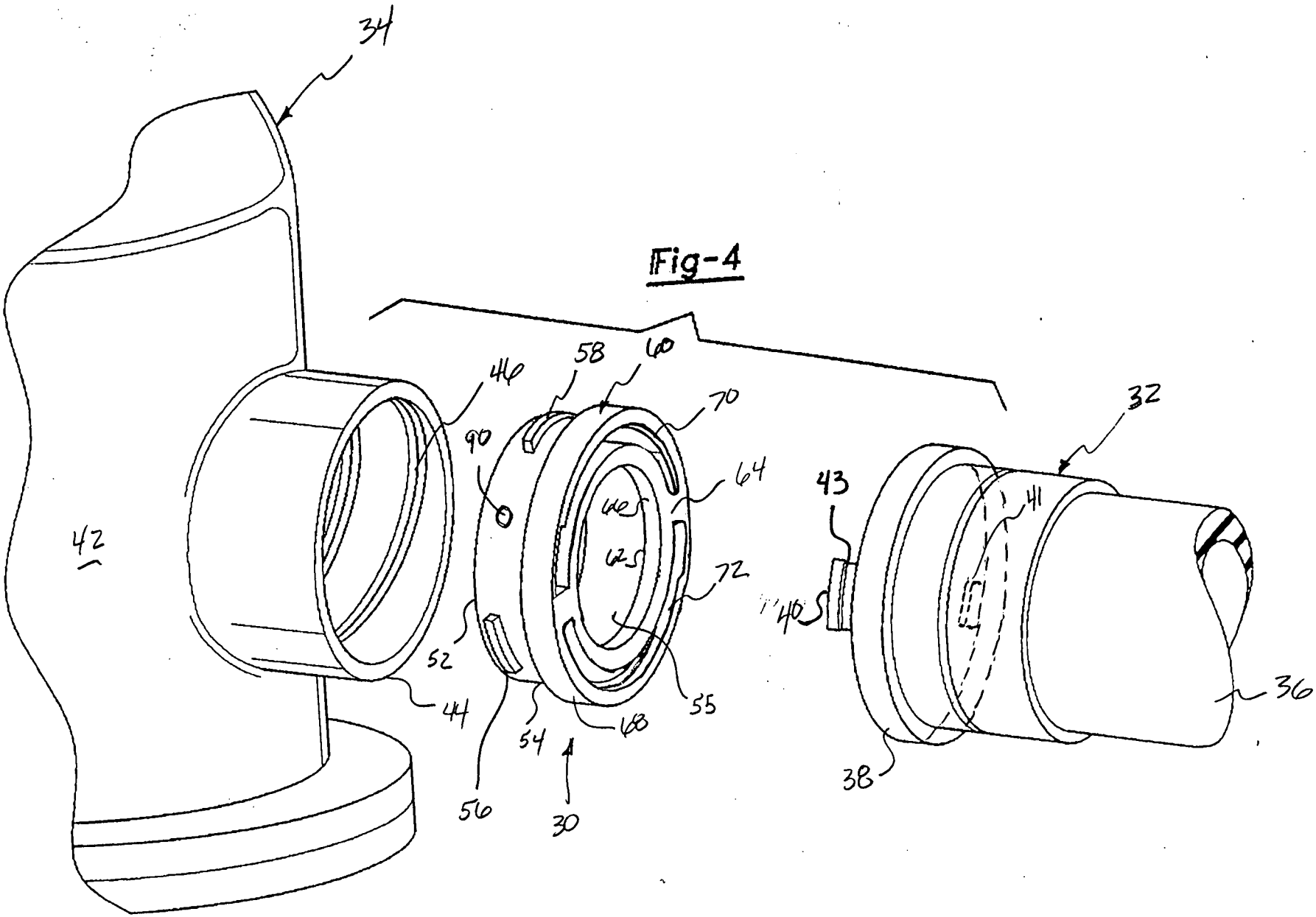


Fig-4

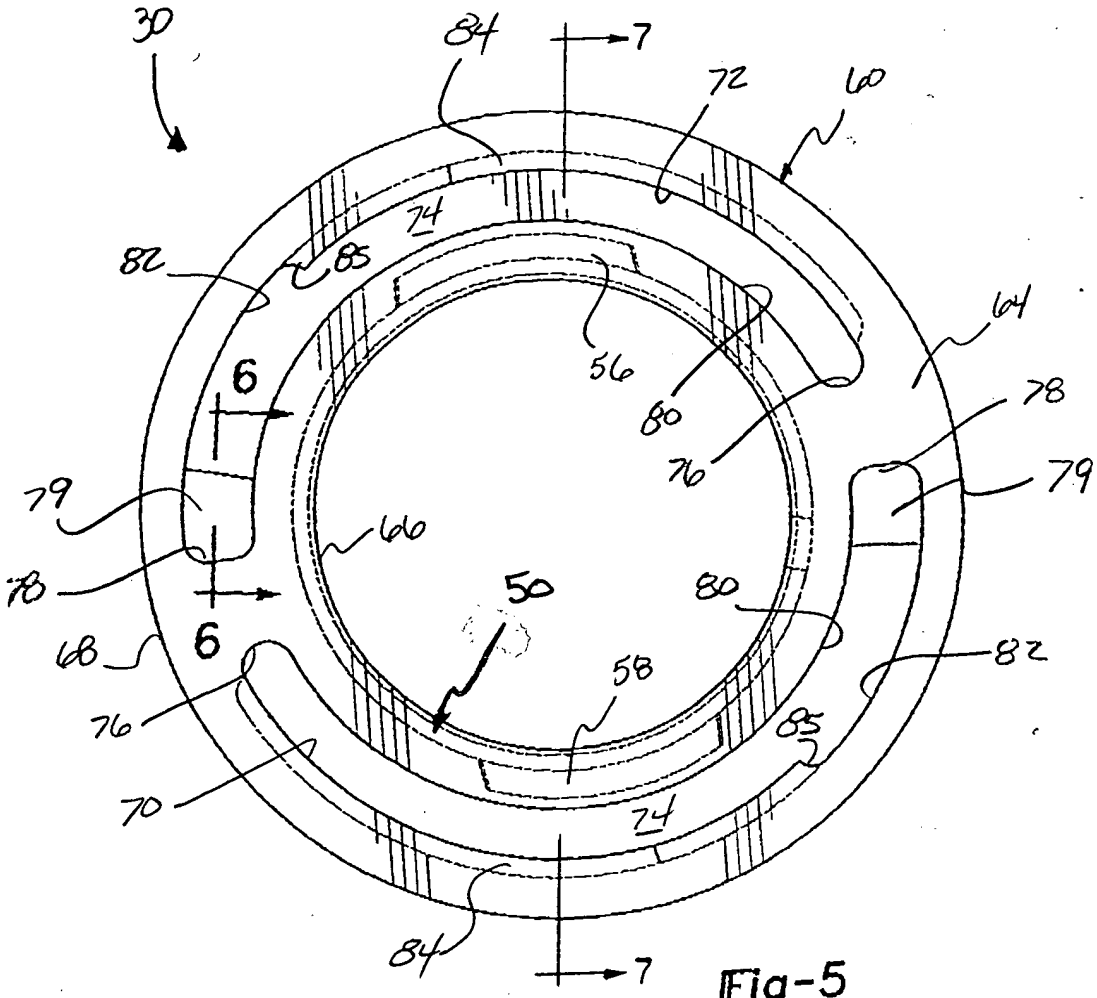

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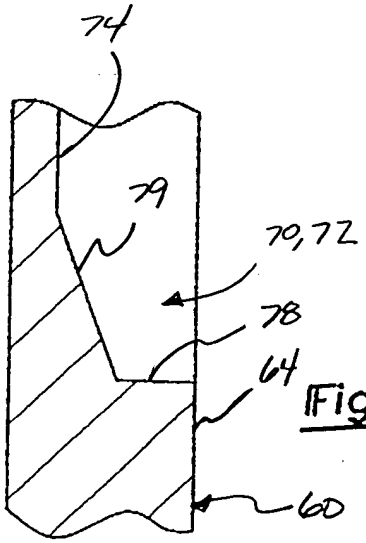
Fig-5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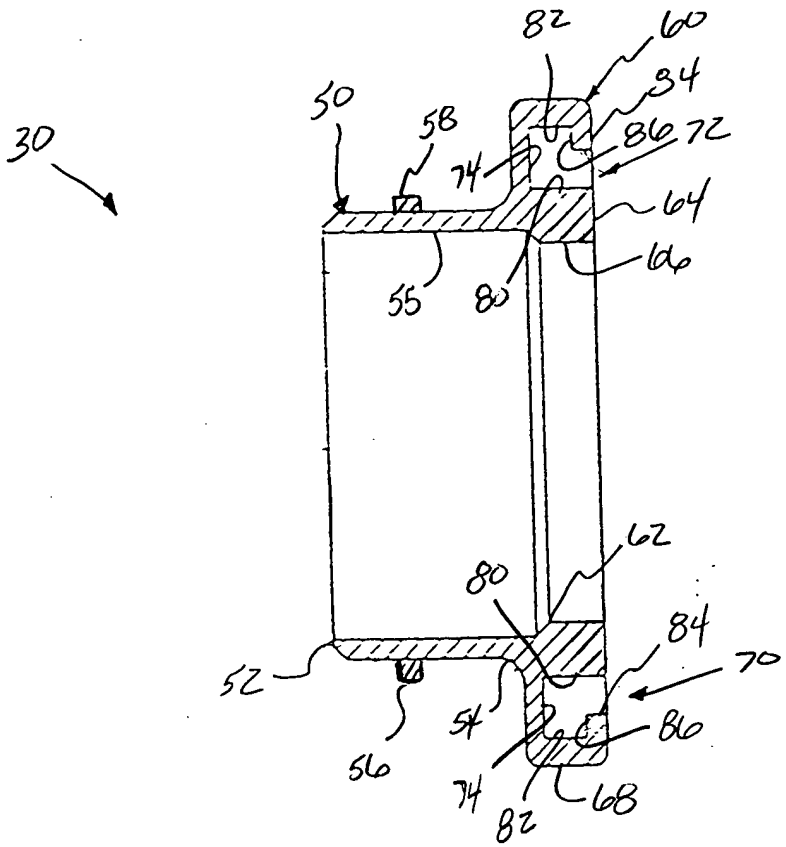
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FIG-7

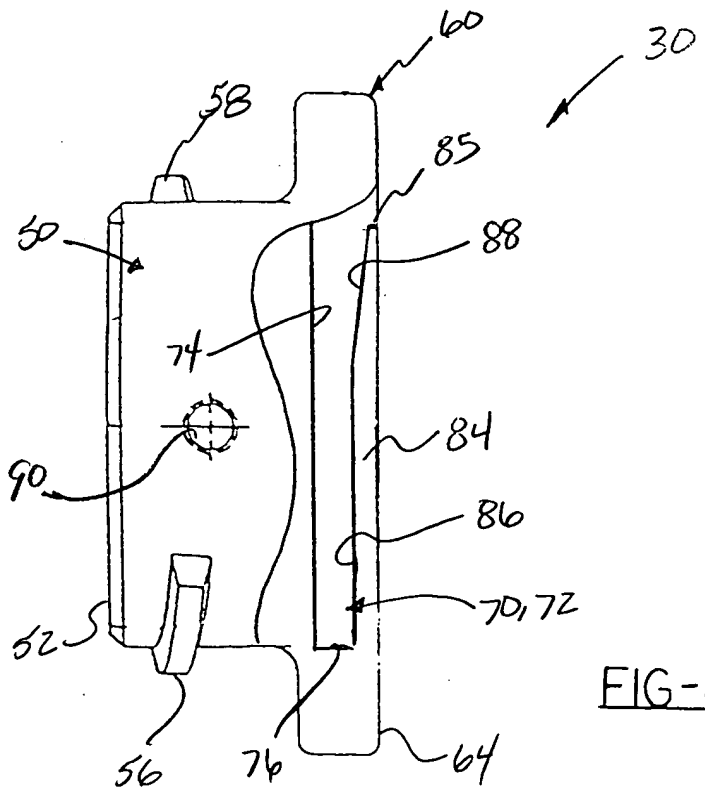
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FIG-8

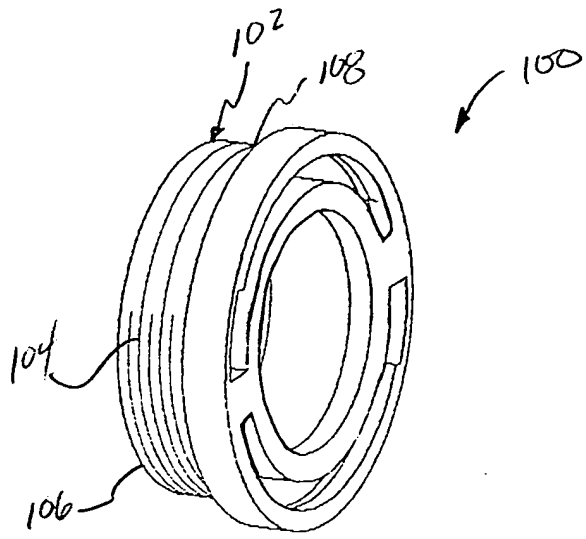

Fig-9